



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

Don DeGabrielle • United States Attorney

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JOHN YEMBRICK
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(713) 567-9388

**IMMIGRATION LAWYER CHARGED WITH AIDING ILLEGAL ENTRY OF
CHINESE NATIONALS**

HOUSTON, TX – Yali Huang, 43, a local immigration attorney, has been indicted and charged with conspiracy to encourage unlawful immigration of Chinese nationals and visa fraud. United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced that Huang, a citizen of China and a legal permanent resident of the United States, was charged in a superseding indictment along with her employee, Yongping Liu, 48, also known as Mary Liu, in a sealed indictment returned on Wednesday, March 22, 2006. The superseding indictment was unsealed this morning following the arrest of Huang by agents of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Huang appeared before a United States Magistrate Judge this afternoon and has been ordered released on a \$100,000 bond following the deposit of \$10,000 into the registry of the court. Her arraignment has been set for Tuesday, March 28, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. Liu, who was originally charged in October 2005 with others for this offense, is presently out on bond and will be set for arraignment on the superseding indictment by the court on a date in the near future.

Huang and Liu are accused of participating in a conspiracy to encourage unlawful immigration of Chinese nationals through a scheme to file fraudulent visa applications with ICE. If convicted of the conspiracy charge, each faces up to five years imprisonment and a fine up to \$250,000.

According to the allegations in the superseding indictment, between April 2000 and October 2005, Huang and Liu were involved in a scheme with Kenneth Cohen and his wife, Ping Lee Cohen, who are named co-conspirators, to recruit the owners of small U.S. companies to make offers of employment to Chinese citizens for whom visas were fraudulently obtained. Chinese nationals paid the Cohens up to \$120,000 to enter the United States. The offers of employment allowed the Chinese nationals to obtain employment-based visas enabling them to enter and remain in the U.S.

The indictment alleges the Cohens, in concert with the defendants, Yali Huang and Yongping Liu, created an illusory relationship between Chinese companies and U.S. companies by submitting forged stock certificates, stock transfer ledgers, and financial records in support of petitions for visas e-filed with the then Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) on behalf of their clients. Yali Huang and her assistant, Yongping Liu, are alleged to have filed the fraudulent petitions with the INS for the Chinese citizen to enter and remain in the U.S. as an executive level employee of the various U.S. businesses.

Kenneth and Ping Lee Cohen have been convicted for their role in the conspiracy and are pending sentencing. Yongping Liu is presently pending trial in April 2006 before United States District Judge David Hittner. Liu and Huang are both **presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.. The public is reminded that an indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct not evidence. The United States always bears the burden of proving an alleged violation of federal law beyond a reasonable doubt.**

The indictment is the result of an investigation being conducted by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Douglas Davis.

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